

Finance, Legislation and Planning Committee Meeting (FL&P)
VAVRS State Office | 2535 Turkey Creek Road | Oilville, Virginia
Friday, October 29, 2010
1:00 P.M.

Members Present:	Members Absent:	Staff:	Others:
Gary Dalton	Kent Weber (excused)	Scott Winston	Donald Dinse
Michael Player		Gary Brown	Karen Wagner
Art Lipscomb			
Rob Logan			
Mike Harmon			
Robin Foster, MD			
Ed Rhodes			

Topic/Subject	Discussion	Recommendations, Action/Follow-up; Responsible Person
Opening	Mr. Gary Dalton called the meeting to order at 1 PM. At the time the meeting began, a quorum was not present. Mike Player and Dr. Robin Foster arrived before the end of the meeting to establish a quorum for the meeting. The minutes from Friday, August 13, 2010 were reviewed and moved to a later part of the agenda for approval once a quorum was present. The minutes were approved with the following revision: Page 2, 4 th Paragraph, Delete second sentence, "Delete Paragraph B." Once a quorum was present the minutes were reviewed and approved.	Motion to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2010 meeting made by Ed Rhodes. Seconded by Art Lipscomb. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the August 13 meeting.
OEMS Update Personnel Update Budget Reduction EMS Regulations DDNR Regulations	Mr. Scott Winston reported that Ken Pullen, EMS Program Representative for Northern Virginia is retiring at the end of the calendar year. Ken has been employed by OEMS for twenty five years. His position vacancy will be covered by Ms. Heather Phillips until OEMS can recruit and fill the position. Mr. Winston and Mr. Gary Brown reported that all state agencies have been requested to prepare a 2/4/and 6 percent reduced budget. Although state revenues are up from a year ago, there is a great emphasis by the administration on reducing spending and improving efficiencies within state government. The Governor will be releasing his proposed budget for FY 2012 in December. Mr. Winston reported the EMS Regulations were currently being reviewed by the	

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State EMS Plan Update	<p>OAG. Mr. Art Lipscomb reported there is great interest in moving the regulations along and the Virginia Professional Firefighters' Association (VPFF) asked Senator McDougal to contact the OAG to inquire about the status of the regulations. The contact to the OAG prompted Mr. Matt Cobb, Deputy Secretary for Health and Human Resources to contact OEMS for an update on the situation.</p> <p>The DDNR Regulations are awaiting approval by the Governor's Office.</p> <p>A draft of the State EMS Plan was presented at the February 2010 meeting of the FL&P committee, and to the state EMS Advisory Board in May. Following that meeting, the draft plan was posted to the OEMS web page for public comment. The public comment period ended on July 16, 2010, with 47 comments submitted, which prompted a minor change to the plan, to include language related to the creation and maintenance of a ST Elevation Myocardial Infarction (STEMI) Triage Protocol. This addition is Key Strategic Initiative 4.1.4 of the plan.</p> <p>The final draft of the plan was approved by the state EMS Advisory Board at their meeting on August 13. OEMS presented the final approved Plan to the Board of Health (BoH) at their meeting on October 15. Several questions raised by BoH members will require several additional changes to the format of the Plan. Ultimately, the BoH took no action on the request made by OEMS to approve the state Plan.</p> <p>These changes include additional information on the Mission and Vision of the Office of EMS, a brief overview of the EMS system in Virginia, as well as identification of objectives for each strategic initiative, responsible parties, anticipated cost, and division of responsibility. OEMS anticipates submission of the revised plan to the Commissioner before the end of the calendar year. The Commissioner has the ability to act on behalf of the Board of Health to approve or reject the revised plan, before the next meeting of the Board in March of 2011.</p>	
EMS Related Legislation: Potential Legislative	A number of the members of the FL&P committee attended the Virginia Fire Services Council Legislative Summit held earlier in the day at the VAVRS State Office.	

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Initiatives for 2011	<p>During the Legislative Summit, the following initiatives were discussed by representatives of the public safety community:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Modify the application process for variance/exemptions. Currently, local government approval is required. Code language should be changed to allow EMS personnel affiliated with a licensed EMS agency to obtain the signature of the EMS agency head and Operational Medical Director (OMD) in lieu of local governmental approval. 2) Relocation and/or elevation of the Office of EMS in state government. Make EMS Advisory Board a policy making Board. Agency heads will become political appointees. 3) Ask state to fully fund the Volunteer Service Award Program (VOLSAP). The program was established in 1999 and there are approximately 1,500 members enrolled. 4) Include EMS personnel under the Heart and Lung bill. It is anticipated there would be minimal impact on Workers Compensation claims if EMS personnel were added. Other considerations include the need to provide annual membership rosters to the Clerk of Courts and perform physical examination on each member. 5) A budget amendment will be introduced to return \$350,000 to the EMS Fund that is currently going to Virginia State Police (VSP) to support the Med-Flight program. Funding for the VSP Med-Flight program was based on three helicopters. Two program bases remain following the closure of Med-Flight III in Lynchburg. <p>The Committee discussed the proposed changes in the variance/exemption process. The Committee decided to present an action item to the Board at their Nov. 10 meeting requesting support for the recommended changes to the existing variance/exemption process.</p> <p>In addition, the Committee recommended distributing copies of the summary notes</p>	

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	<p>from the Virginia Fire Services Council Legislative Summit to members of the EMS Advisory Board at their November 10 meeting.</p> <p>The Committee also discussed the proposed move of the Office of EMS within state government. Benefits of moving OEMS from the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to the Secretary of Public Safety include improved interagency communications, operational efficiency and coordination, greater ability to develop strategic plans, train and exercise, improved preparedness, resource assessment and deployment. Everyone who responds to a 9-1-1 call should be under the same secretariat. Operational control of emergency responders occurs at the local level and is not required at the state level.</p> <p>The Committee acknowledged there are many unanswered questions. According to Mike Harman, it was stated by Secretary Marla Decker that if a move of OEMS is made, there is no funding to change the Office of EMS to a Department. The Committee also discussed the need for a potential change in the composition of the EMS Advisory Board.</p> <p>OEMS cautioned the Committee that moving the Office may result in a reduction in the number of approved Full Time Equivalent (FTE) positions.</p> <p>It was noted that pre-filed bills for the 2011 session of the General Assembly must be submitted by December 1. Legislative Services should have all pre-filed bills prepared by the middle of December.</p>	<p>It was suggested that if there is a sufficient number of pre-filed bills related to EMS, the Committee may want to consider conducting a conference call sometime in December.</p>
FL&P Committee Make-Up	<p>Gary Dalton stated the Chair of the FL&P Committee will be elected at the upcoming EMS Advisory Board in November. The By-Laws of the Board require the Chair of the FL&P Committee to be a member of the state EMS Advisory Board.</p> <p>The Committee discussed and identified organizations and associations that should have representatives on the Committee. VAVRS, VFCA, VPFF, Regional EMS Councils, VAGEMSA, EMS for Children, and Virginia State Fire Fighter's</p>	<p>Gary Dalton agreed to contact Ronnie Black, President, Virginia State Fire Fighter's</p>

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	<p>Association. There are two (2) at-large positions currently on the Committee. These positions are filled by Mr. Kent Weber and Mr. Ed Rhodes.</p> <p>Rob Logan suggested we should extend an invitation for membership on the Committee to someone representing hospital administration. It was suggested to contact a representative from the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA) for a recommendation.</p>	<p>Association to seek the appointment of Mr. Byron Andrews to the Committee.</p>
PUBLIC COMMENT	None.	
Unfinished BUSINESS	None.	
NEW BUSINESS	None.	
Meeting dates for 2011	<p>The following tentative meeting dates were agreed upon:</p> <p>Friday, February 11 Friday, May 13 Friday, August 12 Wednesday, Nov. 9 or a date that coincides with the Virginia Fire Services Council Legislative Summit (typically held in October time frame).</p> <p>All meetings will begin at 9 AM unless otherwise indicated.</p>	
Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3 p.m.	